



BC Amateur Baseball Association

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Baseball BC

2024

National & Western

Qualifiers

Operations Manual

Please visit our National & Western Qualifiers webpage at:

ballcharts.com/baseballbcprovincial



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Table of Contents

Introductory Letter	Page 3
Entry Process & Deadlines	Page 4
Qualifier Format	Page 5
Entry Fees	Page 5
Event Dates & Locations	Page 6
Travel Funding	Page 7
Team & Player Eligibility	Page 8-13
Roster Submission	Page 14
15U AAA Specific Procedures	Page 15-17
Team Commitment & Financial Consequences	Page 18
Uniform Policy	Page 19
Safe Sport	Page 19
Screening Requirement	Page 19
Westerns/Nationals Pick-up Policy	Page 20
NCCP	Page 21



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Baseball BC Qualifiers Introductory Letter

March 15, 2024

Baseball BC is pleased to announce details regarding the 2024 Baseball BC Qualifiers. These events are open to each Baseball BC member and will qualify teams for National and Western Canada Championships.

Baseball BC members declared interest in participating in each of the seven qualifiers by a March 1st deadline. Based on interest declared, Baseball BC assigned berths in each qualifier and determine event formats, through a collaborative process with its members. Members are responsible for determining the qualification procedures for their allotted berths.

We wish you all the best for the 2024 season and hope to see you at our qualifiers this summer.

Kyle Williams
Director of High-Performance & Special Projects
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Entry Process & Deadlines

Entry into Baseball BC Qualifiers is through member organizations who have been assigned berths for each event. Member organizations will determine how to qualify teams for their berth allocations. Member organizations must advise Baseball BC of their qualification process by April 15th for divisions playing a single season schedule and by July 1st for divisions playing a split spring/summer schedule.

While Baseball BC members determine how to qualify teams, Baseball BC determines how teams are seeded.

Berth Allocation

<u>Division</u>	<u>BC Minor</u>	<u>Little League</u>	<u>PBL</u>	<u>Babe Ruth</u>
18U AAA T1	1	0	1	0
18U AAA T2	Event cancelled – BC Minor’s 18U AAA provincial winner will qualify.			
18U AA	Event cancelled – BC Minor’s 18U AA provincial winner will qualify.			
15U AAA	11	0	12	0
15U AA	3	1	0	0
13U AAA	4	1	0	0
13U AA	Event Cancelled – BC Minor’s 13U AA provincial winner will qualify.			

Berth Acceptance

Members who declare interest in participating in a qualifier on March 1st, and who subsequently withdraw, are not guaranteed berth allocation in that division in 2025 and will need to reapply.

Exception: Baseball BC’s qualifiers may conflict with Little League Nationals. If this conflict is declared by May 1st, such teams will be permitted to withdrawal without penalty following their provincial tournament in July.



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Qualifier Format

<u>Division</u>	<u># of Teams</u>	<u>Format</u>
18U AAA T1	2	Best of three series.
18U AAA T2	Cancelled	Baseball BC will not hold a qualifier because only BC Minor has entered. BC Minor's 18U AAA provincial champion will qualify for the 18U AAA Westerns.
18U AA	Cancelled	Baseball BC will not hold a qualifier because only BC Minor has entered. BC Minor's 18U AA provincial champion will qualify for the 18U AA Westerns.
15U AAA	23	Single knockout bracket with the first three rounds played in-season to determine the National qualifier. Western berth TBD.
15U AA	4	Round robin. Semi-Final: 3 rd @ 2 nd . Final: SF W @ 1st
13U AAA	5	Round Robin. 2 nd @ 1 st . Winner to Nationals; loser to Westerns. 4 th @ 3 rd . Winner to Westerns.
13U AA	Cancelled	Baseball BC will not hold a qualifier because only BC Minor has entered. BC Minor's 13U AA provincial champion will qualify for the 13U AA Westerns.

Entry Fees

Baseball BC Qualifier entry fees are:

- 13U \$600
- 15U AA \$600
- 15U AAA \$150/game (visitors) & \$100/game (home). See page 17.
- 18U \$300

Members are responsible for paying the entry fee by June 15th on behalf of their teams. It is the members' responsibility to collect fees from their teams.

Entry fees are non-refundable after June 15 (see exception on page 4).



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National & Western Qualifier Dates & Hosts

<u>Division</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Host</u>	<u>Location</u>
18U AAA Tier 1	July 26-27	Mid Island Pirates	Nanaimo
18U AAA Tier 2	Aug 9-10	Cancelled	
18U AA	Aug 9-10	Cancelled	
15U AAA	August 3	Chilliwack Minor Baseball	Fairfield Island, Chilliwack
15U AA	August 2-4	Chilliwack Minor Baseball	Fairfield Island, Chilliwack
13U AAA	August 2-4	Chilliwack Minor Baseball	Fairfield Island, Chilliwack
13U AA	August 2-4	Cancelled.	

National & Western Canada Championships – Dates & Hosts

The winners and runners-up at Baseball BC Qualifiers attend the following events:

<u>Division</u>	<u>Team(s) Qualifying</u>	<u>Date & Location</u>
18U AAA T1	Winner to 18U Nationals	August 15-18 in Saint John's, Newfoundland
18U AAA T2	Winner to 18U AAA Westerns	August 16-18 in Chilliwack, BC
18U AA	Winner to 18U AA Westerns	August 16-18 in Winnipeg, Manitoba
15U AAA	Winner to 15U Nationals	August 22-25 in Laval, Quebec
	2 nd Place to 15U AAA Westerns	August 16-18 in Winnipeg, Manitoba
15U AA	Winner to 15U AA Westerns	August 16-18 in Winnipeg, Manitoba
13U AAA	Winner to 13U Nationals	August 22-25 in Woodstock, Ontario
13U AAA	2 nd Place to 13U AAA Westerns	August 16-18 in Winnipeg, Manitoba
	3 rd Place to 13U AAA Westerns	
13U AA	Winner to 13U AA Westerns	August 16-18 in Winnipeg, Manitoba



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Travel Funding

The travel funding model for each event can be found in the table below.

<u>Event</u>	<u>Funding</u>
18U AAA Westerns in Chilliwack	Teams are responsible for all travel. There are no fees charged or funding provided.
15U AAA Westerns (Manitoba) 13U AAA Westerns (Manitoba) 18U AA Westerns (Manitoba) 15U AA Westerns (Manitoba) 13U AA Westerns (Manitoba)	Baseball BC will provide each team with a \$2000 travel grant. No travel or flights will be prebooked. Each team will choose their method of travel. Teams are responsible for all travel costs including transportation (both local and interprovincial), and hotels.
15U Nationals (Quebec) 13U Nationals (Ontario)	No travel or flights will be prebooked. Each team will make their own travel arrangements and will be responsible for travel costs. Local transportation is provided by the host. Six hotel rooms are provided by the Host. Baseball BC will pay the required \$5000 contribution to Baseball Canada for these hotel rooms and will cover the cost of the additional night's stay.
18U Nationals (Newfoundland)	Baseball BC will book 22 flights to this event and will invoice the team for the actual cost of the flight. Local transportation is provided by the Host. Six hotel rooms are provided by the Host. Baseball BC will pay the required \$5000 contribution to Baseball Canada for these hotel rooms and will cover the cost of the additional night's stay.

Teams attending Nationals will name a Chef de Mission, subject to the approval of Baseball BC. No funding is provided for the Chef de Mission.



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Team & Player Eligibility - All Leagues & Divisions

The following is the intended classification for each Baseball BC Qualifier.

<u>Division</u>	<u>Member Division</u>
18U AAA T1	PBL – Senior BC Minor – College Prep
18U AAA T2	PBL – Junior BC Minor – College Prep or 18U AAA
18U AA	Babe Ruth – Community teams BC Minor – 18U AA
15U AAA	PBL – 15U AAA BC Minor – 15U AAA
15U AA	Little League – District*1 or Association Teams BC Minor – 15U AA
13U AAA	Little League – District teams BC Minor – 13U AAA
13U AA	Little League – District*2 or Association Teams BC Minor – 13U AA

*1 Requires approval (See page 11)

*2 If the first team within the District plays AAA (See page 11)



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Reclassification

Baseball BC reserves the right to re-classify any team from AA to AAA (or from 18U T2 to T1) based on their strength. When making this decision, Baseball BC shall consider factors, including but not limited to:

- The team's win-loss record.
- The team's runs for and against statistics.
- The team's performance against the top five teams in their league.
- The teams performance in tournaments.
- A historical comparison. For example, how a team of a similar strength performed in previous qualifiers.

Baseball BC will reclassify teams when their strength is clearly beyond that of the normal strength expected for the division.

The process for reclassification shall be as follows:

- Baseball BC will review the classification of teams with members throughout the season, particularly as spring season concludes.
- When Baseball BC is considering reclassifying a team, the member will be advised at least ten days prior to the start of the qualifier. The member and/or the team being considered for reclassification will have the opportunity to put forward their perspective on reclassification prior to a decision being made by Baseball BC.

Baseball BC members are strongly encouraged to internally review the classification of their teams and have a mechanism in place that allows for the mid-season reclassification of teams, while still giving the team an opportunity to qualify for a berth at a higher level.



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General Eligibility for All Members

- 1.1 Players must meet the Baseball Canada age requirements for their division.
- 1.2 Per Baseball Canada rules, female athletes have one extra year of eligibility in each age division.
- 1.3 Except for section 1.2 above, overage players are not permitted for any reason, including but not limited to athlete size, disability, experience, baseball ability, or health circumstances. Overage athletes are not permitted even when approved by a member to participate in league play. There is no mechanism by which teams or athletes can apply to play as an overage player, citing special circumstances. There is a place for everyone within their own age group, within baseball programs in BC.
- 1.4 Out of catchment players must follow their member's (Little League, PBL, Babe Ruth, BC Minor) own release/transfer rules.
- 1.5 Teams may not add players to their roster who have not been part of their local association or club during the season.
- 1.6 Players are permitted to play in multiple qualifiers provided they are on different weekends. For example, a player who is rostered at 15U AAA during the season, could play in the 18U AAA Tier 1 Qualifier as a pick-up and still be eligible to play in the 15U AAA qualifier.
- 1.7 Athletes who have competed at a higher level during the season are not permitted to drop down to a lower division or caliber (AAA to AA) for a qualifier.
- 1.8 Baseball BC reserves the right to rule on any eligibility matter not specifically covered in these rules.
- 1.9 Roster Size

<u>Division</u>	<u>AA</u>	<u>AAA</u>
13U	15	15
15U	15	18
18U	18	18



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Team & Player Eligibility - PBL Specific

18U AAA Tier 1

Programs may create a roster consisting of any combination of players from within their program (SR, JR, 15U).

18U AAA Tier 2

Programs may create a roster consisting of any combination of players from within their Junior or 15U AAA teams.

15U AAA

The PBL 15U league roster size is 20 players. Teams are restricted to a maximum of 18 players on their roster for the qualification process. Teams are not permitted to choose a different set of 18 players for each game. The PBL and their member clubs should make athletes and their parents/guardians aware of this roster size rule prior to team selection. Players on an extended PBL roster are eligible to replace a player on their Baseball BC qualifiers roster per the requirements found on page 14.

The PBL does not recognize “second” 15U AAA teams within their clubs. Therefore, athletes rostered on a “second” team are not part of the PBL and are not eligible to be added to a roster for the 15U AAA Qualifier. Only players 19 and 20 on an extended roster are eligible as replacement players.

Athletes must have played ten games at 15U AAA to be eligible for the August portion of the qualification process.

Players rostered at Junior or Senior are not eligible to play in the 15U AAA qualifier.

Players who have played 6 or more games at Junior and/or Senior, during the current season, prior to June 1, are no longer eligible to play in the qualification process.

Players who have played 10 or more games at Junior and/or Senior, during the current season, are not eligible to play in the AAA qualifier.



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Team & Player Eligibility - BC Minor Specific

18U AAA Tier 1 & 2

BC Minor teams may create a roster of any combination of players from within their program (18U CP, 18U AAA, 18U AA, 15U.).

A team may enter both the 18U AAA T1 and T2 qualifier.

All Other Divisions

Teams must use their roster, as approved by BC Minor, for single season or summer play, and meet all BC Minor eligibility requirements. Subject to the rules contained in this document, Baseball BC will generally refer to BC Minor rules to determine the eligibility of a player.

Teams may add players from a lower division to their roster by the roster submission deadline. For example, a 15U AA team may add a player from 15U A or from 13U. Teams may not cut players from their roster for the purpose of adding players. Teams may not add players from outside of their association.



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Team & Player Eligibility - Little League Specific

General

To be eligible to participate in a Baseball BC Qualifier, an athlete must be an active participant on a Little League team, during their spring season. Baseball BC's definition of an active participant is an individual who is registered by May 15th and who has played a minimum of eight games during the spring season.

Athletes who are rostered at a higher level, or who play ten or more games at a higher level, at any time during the season, are not eligible to play in a lower division at a Baseball BC Qualifier. This applies whether the higher level is within Little League's programming or not.

For example, a player who was dual rostered on a Majors division team and a 15U AA/AAA team in the PBL, would not be eligible to participate in a 13U Qualifier.

15U AA

An individual league or association may choose to enter a team, consisting of players who reside within their boundaries.

A District may apply to Baseball BC to field a team, consisting of any combination of players from within their District's boundaries. These applications must be received by June 15th; however, it is recommended Districts seek approval prior to the declaration date.

13U AAA

An Association may choose to enter a team, consisting of players who reside within their boundaries. A District may choose to enter a team, consisting of any combination of players from within their District's associations.

13U AA

An association may choose to enter a team, consisting of players who reside within their boundaries.

Two associations may apply to Baseball BC to merge and field a team consisting of any combination of players from within their association's boundaries. These applications must be received by June 15th; however, it is recommended Districts seek approval prior to the declaration date.

A District may choose to enter a team consisting of any combination of players from within their District's boundaries, if the District has entered a team at the AAA level.



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Roster Submission

18U AAA Tier 1	Due on Tuesday July 23.
18U AAA Tier 2	Due on Tuesday August 6
18U AA	Due on Tuesday August 6
15U AAA	Due on Monday April 8
15U AA	Due on Tuesday July 30
13U AAA / AA	Due on Tuesday July 30

The only changes to rosters after submission will be due to injury or other special circumstances prior to the start of the event. Medical or other documentation may be required. Once a player is removed from the roster, they cannot be readded.

The requirement to replace players prior to the start of an event does not apply to 15U AAA.

Baseball BC reserves the right to allow teams to correct an obvious administrative error on a roster when it is in the best interests of athlete participation.

Baseball BC will provide a roster form. Teams may submit rosters on other league forms provided that the roster includes first/last name, birthdate, and address, and NCCP numbers for all coaches.

Late rosters may incur financial consequences per page 13 of this document.



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15U AAA Specific Procedures

The 15U AAA qualifier contains preliminary rounds played during the season, and as such, procedures unique to this division are required.

Scheduling Process

First and second round games have been scheduled in consultation with the teams. Changes to these games can only be made with the agreement of both teams and Baseball BC.

First round games were scheduled between April 20 and May 15.

Second round games were scheduled between May 28 and June 13.

Quarter final games will be scheduled between June 18 and July 11.

For quarter-final scheduling, the home team will identify 2-4 dates within the required time frame and will provide those dates to Baseball BC. The visiting team will identify their available dates within the same time frame and will provide those to Baseball BC. Those dates must be provided to Baseball BC within three days of the match-up being confirmed. Once set, a date can only be changed with the mutual agreement of both teams.

The semi-finals and finals will be played on Saturday August 3 in Chilliwack.

Weather Decisions

Baseball BC will collaborate with both teams in the event of inclement weather. Baseball BC will determine whether a game will be postponed prior to the teams attending the field. At the field, the decision shall be made by the umpires.

Baseballs

The home team shall supply baseballs for the first, second, and quarter-final rounds. Baseball BC shall supply baseballs for the semi-finals and finals.

Pitch Count

Baseball BC pitch count rules shall be in effect for all games played throughout the qualification process. Teams must advise Baseball BC of all pitches thrown in the four days before a qualification game. Pitches thrown in any game, including tournaments, exhibition, and league, count towards pitch count. Baseball BC will communicate this information, along with eligibility restrictions, to both teams. Each member is responsible for enforcing pitch count after qualification games, based on their own rules.

Umpires

Baseball BC, through a contract with the BCBUA, will supply and pay for three umpires for each game. Teams do not schedule their own umpires.



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Rosters

Rosters must be composed and submitted to Baseball BC per the requirements of this document. Teams will maintain a single 18-player roster throughout all qualification rounds except that teams with open roster spots may add new players until June 1. Players cannot participate on two teams within the qualification process.

Discipline

Each member shall determine whether an individual under a suspension issued by their own organization, is to be served during a qualifier game. Baseball BC will administer discipline arising from qualifier games. Per Baseball BC's discipline policy, such suspensions may be served during league play. For example, an individual who received a one game suspension after a round one game, may participate in round two, if the suspension has been served in league play.

Protests

Should an issue over an interpretation of a rule arise during a qualification game, every effort will be made to resolve the issue via phone contact with Baseball BC before the game resumes. That said, in round one, round two, and the quarterfinals, protests of rule interpretations may be submitted, provided the umpires were informed of the protest before the game resumes. Protests in the semi-finals and finals will be resolved through the regular on-site procedure. Any proven violation of player eligibility rules shall result in the forfeiture of the game.

Batting Practice

The home team shall advise the visiting team of batting practice times, if any, 24 hours prior to the game. If the home team hits, either on the field or in a cage, the visiting team must be given a minimum of 30 minutes of BP in the same location.

Screening & NCCP

The screening procedures (p18) and NCCP requirements (p21) do not apply until the August portion of the qualification process.

Entry Fees

Teams will be charged per game per page 5. The visiting team is charged \$150 and the home team is charged \$100 in round one, two, and the quarterfinals. This difference represents the cost of baseballs supplied by the home team. Teams advancing to the semi-finals will be charged a flat fee of \$150. Baseball BC will invoice BC Minor and the PBL after the quarterfinals are complete. BC Minor and the PBL will collect from their own teams.



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Qualification

The winner of the event qualifies for the National Championships.

The runner-up has first right of refusal to attend the Western Canada Championships. No team will be required to attend Westerns. The four teams advancing to the semi-finals in Chilliwack must declare whether they wish to attend Westerns should they qualify. This declaration must be made by July 11th. Should three or more of the final four teams not wish to attend Westerns, Baseball BC will determine a qualification process, in consultation with members.



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Team Commitment & Financial Consequences

Members accepting berths for Baseball BC qualifiers, are required to acknowledge the team commitment expectations and guarantee payment of any financial consequences imposed. Baseball BC will issue financial consequences to member organizations who will be responsible for collecting from their individual teams. Baseball BC will not require a performance bond to be collected.

The following team commitment expectations apply to all teams and members entering Baseball BC qualifiers.

- 1) Teams must play all scheduled games in the qualifier. A \$500 fine will be issued per violation.
- 2) Members must fulfill their berth commitment. Any member who advises Baseball BC after June 15th that they will be unable to send teams consistent with their berth commitment will be fined up to \$2000. The amount of the financial consequence will be determined based on how close the withdrawal occurs to the event and the impact it has on the event itself.
- 3) Teams must attend any Western or National tournament that they qualify for, with a minimum of 50% of their athletes who were on their roster used at Baseball BC's Qualifier (or BC Minor Provincial Championship at 18U AAA Tier 2 & 18U AA). It is the responsibility of teams and members to ensure this commitment exists from their athletes before entering the Qualifier. Teams that fail to meet this requirement will be fined up to \$2000. Furthermore, their entire coaching staff may face additional sanctions regarding their future eligibility to participate in all Baseball BC programming and their program/association may face sanctions related to their eligibility to participate in future Baseball BC Qualifiers.
- 4) Teams are expected to participate in the pre-tournament Zoom call. A \$100 fine will be issued against teams failing to attend.
- 5) Teams are expected to submit rosters by the published deadline. A \$50 fine will be issued against teams, per day. Teams that have not submitted their roster 48 hours prior to a Qualifier are subject to removal.



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Westerns & Nationals Uniform Policy

Qualifying teams are permitted to wear club uniforms at Western and National events.

At National Championships and Tier One Westerns, teams may elect to wear BC apparel. This is at the team's own expense and organization.

At Tier Two Westerns, teams are not permitted to wear BC apparel. This policy is in place because three teams attend Tier Two Westerns in the same location and it is not a positive optical look for some teams to be in BC uniforms, while others wear club uniforms.

Safe Sport

Baseball BC Safe Sport policies apply throughout Qualifiers and at Western and National Championships. It is the responsibility of everyone to familiarize themselves with these policies.

Baseball BC Safe Sport policies can be found at the link below:

<https://www.baseball.bc.ca/safe-sport>

Screening Requirement

Baseball BC expects that all coaches participating in Qualifier have completed a screening process within their local association or league. The Screening Officer or President (or an individual in a similar role) will be required to confirm in writing that the coaches on their roster have successfully completed the screening processes within their organization, which includes a criminal records check. Baseball BC will not ask to see the actual documents.

For example, an email from the Screening officer of a minor baseball organization may read:

“Dear Baseball BC, This email confirms the coaching staff of the Merritt Orioles 15U AAA team, including Joe Smith, Jane Doe, and Mike Jones, have successfully completed the screening process with our organization, which includes a criminal records check.”

Such confirmations shall be sent to Kyle Williams (kyle@baseball.bc.ca) by the roster deadlines contained in this document. Coaches who are not confirmed to have successfully completed a screening process will be removed from their team's roster.



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Pick-up Procedure

Teams that qualify for Western and National Championships are permitted to add pick-ups to their roster. The decision to add pick-ups is a team choice. Baseball BC will not mandate that teams add to their roster except that the minimum roster is 15 players. The purpose of a minimum roster is to ensure teams have enough pitching to complete at the event.

Pick-ups may come from any member program, who may or may not have participated in a Baseball BC qualifier. Baseball BC strongly recommends that members not set rules requiring that their teams only pickup players from within their organization's membership.

Pick-ups for National Championships and AAA Westerns may have played at a higher level during the season and essentially 'play down' as a pick-up. For example, the winning 15U AAA team may add a Junior Premier player as a pick-up, if the player is age eligible. Similarly, the winning 13U AAA team may add a player who played at the 15U level, again, if the player is age eligible.

Teams may not "cut" players from their qualifier roster for the purpose of creating additional pick-up opportunities for Westerns or Nationals unless such player was rostered as a pick-up.

Pick-ups for AA Westerns cannot play at a higher level during the season.

Players may only attend one Western or National tournament as a **pick-up**. The purpose of this policy is to provide post-provincial opportunities to as many athletes as possible. A player who is on the roster of a team that has qualified for a Western Canada Championship may play in Nationals as a pick-up.

Players may decline an invitation to play as a pick-up at Nationals and remain eligible to be selected as a pick-up for Westerns. The purpose of this policy is to recognize that there may be differences in player availability as the events may fall on different weekends.

At 18U AAA & 13U AAA two teams attend the same Western Canada Championship. At 18U AAA, Chilliwack College Prep and BC Minor's 18U AAA champion will attend. At 13U AAA, the 2nd and 3rd placed teams from the Qualifier advance to Westerns. A pickup draft will be conducted between the two teams attending these events. Players who decline an invitation to attend Westerns with one team are ineligible to be selected as a pick-up by the other team attending that same event. The timelines associated with this draft will be communicated to teams prior to the qualifier. The highest placed team will have the first two picks, the lower placed team will have the next two picks, and then teams will have one pick each until the draft is complete.



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NCCP Requirements

To participate in Baseball BC Qualifiers, coaches must possess the certification listed in the table below. This certification is consistent with what is required at National and Western Canada Championships.

Division	Certification Required
18U AAA T1/2	One coach is Certified 16U+ Other coaches are Trained 16U+
18U AA	One coach is Certified 13U Other coaches are Trained 13U
15U AAA*	One coach is Certified 15U Other coaches are Trained 15U
15U AA	One coach Certified 13U Other coaches are Trained 13U
13U AAA/AA	One coach is Certified 13U Other coaches are Trained 13U

Additionally, all coaches must complete the making ethical decisions online evaluation and the Safe Sport eLearning module.

Member organizations are strongly encouraged to check the qualifications of their coaches at the beginning of the season and proactively encourage coaches to complete their certification at an early date. NCCP courses are not often available in July.

A list of NCCP courses, when scheduled, can be found at the following link:

https://nccp.baseball.ca/index.php?new_province=BC&page=180

Use this link to get started on NCCP certification:

[https://www.baseball.bc.ca/uploads/files/Registering%20for%20NCCP%20Program\(5\).pdf](https://www.baseball.bc.ca/uploads/files/Registering%20for%20NCCP%20Program(5).pdf)

Coaches who do not have the required certification will be deleted from their team's roster. Teams without coaches containing the required certification will be removed from the Qualifier.

A team must have their certified coach present for all games. Teams cannot roster a certified coach who is not in attendance for the purpose of circumventing this rule.

Coaches must submit their NCCP number on their team's roster.